



Cornerstone gala draws Canmore crowd

BY HAMISH MACLEAN
HAMISH@
CANMORELEADER.COM

A full house came out Friday to toast the Canmore theatre that is opening again for the very first time.

Cornerstone Theatre and Restaurant held its gala opening, hosting 300 Canmore theatre goers, and previewing its new fall lineup and its new direction. The theatre has been open for eight years, but, staff say, never like this.

Debbie Rosen, music director at the newly renamed theatre called the preparations leading up to the gala night nerve-racking but extremely exciting.

Rosen said the energy in the room Friday night was worth the work.

Continued on page 5



Hamish MacLean/Canmore Leader

Facing page left: Pascale Ouellet, a.k.a. Bigoudi, stands beside Holstein Blues, one of many of the artists' pieces on display opening night. Facing page right: Anna Hurshman performs Life Could Be A Dream in a preview of the coming season's lineup. Above left: Clayton Labbe, left, and Michael Brockman perform Life Could Be A Dream. Above right: Karen Minish, left, and Amanda Williamson perform Putting It Together.

"It does feel a little edgier than before, they're definitely working towards that new image."

— PASCALE OUELLET

Continued from page 4

"It's a pretty special group of people here from all walks of the arts," she said. "I think it's a real forward-looking energy, I think everyone's really excited about the prospect of this theatre being used more and more by the community and for all kinds of shows over the winter."

Piano music accompanied loud conversation as the crowd mingled before speeches and the show. Art hung on the walls in the lobby and was spread through the theatre space as well.

Featured at the opening was the artwork of Canmore's Pascale Ouellet. She called the space classier than she'd seen it previously. And said it would make a great venue for art as well.

"It does feel a little edgier than before," she said. "They're definitely

working towards that new image."

The Corner as it was called all night will continue its long running dinner theatre for Canmore's peak visitor season (April to October) but over the previously slower winter season, the new direction is to welcome the local community in a way that the theatre has not in the past. The local crowd it is believed has an appetite for more challenging fare.

Coun. Pam Hilstad had been to the theatre before, but liked what she saw on the night.

The artwork on the walls was a nice touch she said, but to see the room set up in the way it will be for its new season — the increased capacity — was a nice surprise, she said.

"There are other theatre groups in town, it would be wonderful if it could be available to those groups," she said.